

ficient has we think been advanced to justify the hypothesis that these are the genuine remains of the ancient cattle of the country, and too much praise cannot be given to the public spirit of their present noble proprietor for his zealous care to preserve, pure and untainted, this interesting relic of the zoology of former times.

Alnwick, August 18, 1838.

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NOTE.—The Earl of Tankerville, in writing to Mr. Children that he would most kindly send a skin and skull of the wild oxen of Chillingham to the British Museum collection, communicated the following interesting particulars, which we have taken the liberty of adding to Mr. Hindmarsh's paper :—

“I forgot to mention in my letter to Mr. Hindmarsh a curious circumstance with respect to the continuation of the breed of the wild cattle. Several years since, during the early part of the lifetime of my father, the bulls in the herd had been reduced to three; two of them fought and killed each other, and the third was discovered to be impotent; so that the means of preserving the breed depended on the accident of some of the cows producing a bull calf.”—J. E. GRAY.

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XXXIII.—*On some new or little known Mammalia.* By JOHN EDWARD GRAY, F.R.S., Senior Assistant of the Zoological Department of the British Museum.

[With two Plates.]

CAPTAIN Clapperton and Colonel Denham, when they returned from their expedition in Northern and Central Africa, brought with them two heads of a species of ox, covered with their skins. These heads are the specimens which are mentioned in Messrs. Children and Vigors' accounts of the animals collected in the expedition, as belonging to the buffalo, *Bos Bubalus*, and they are stated to be called *Zamouse* by the natives; but, as no particular locality is given for the head, this name is probably the one applied to the common buffalo, which is found in most parts of North Africa.

Having some years ago compared these heads with the skull



*BOS BRACHYCEROS. Gray.*



of the common buffalo, *Bos Bubalus*, and satisfied myself from the difference in the form and position of the horns that they were a distinct species, in the 'Magazine of Natural History' for 1837 (new series, vol. i. p. 589), I indicated them as a new species, under the name of *Bos brachyceros*.

In the course of this summer, Mr. Cross, of the Surrey Zoological Gardens, received from Sierra Leone, under the name of the *Bush Cow*, a specimen which serves more fully to establish the species. It differs from the buffalo and all the other oxen in several important characters, especially in the large size and peculiar bearding of the ears, and in being totally deficient of any dewlap. It also differs from the buffalo in its forehead being flatter and quite destitute of the convex form which is so striking in all the varieties of that animal.

Mr. Cross's cow is, like the head in the Museum, of a nearly uniform pale chestnut colour. The hair is rather scattered, and nearly perpendicular to the surface of the body. The legs about the knees and hocks are rather darker. The ears are very large, with two rows of very long hairs on the inner side and a tuft of long hairs at the tips. The body is short and barrel-shaped, and the tail reaches to the hocks, rather thin and tapering, with a tuft of long hairs at the tip. The chest is rounded and rather dependent, but without the least appearance of a dewlap, and the horns nearly resemble those of the Museum specimen, but are less developed, from the sex and evidently greater youth of the animal. The Rev. Mr. Morgan informs me that the animal is not rare in the bush near Sierra Leone.

In the size of the ears this species has some resemblance to the "Pegasse of Angola, *Bos Pegasus*" of Colonel Hamilton Smith, indicated and figured in Griffiths' 'Animal Kingdom,' from a figure which this industrious zoologist found in a collection of drawings formerly the property of Prince Maurice of Nassau, now in the Berlin Library, which Colonel Smith thinks was probably intended to represent the Pegasses of Congo, mentioned by the Jesuits, and said to have "ears half a yard in length." But our animal differs from that figure in the ears being nearly erect, and in the horn being of quite a different form and direction. I have added a slight sketch of Mr. Cross's animal (Plate XIII.), which I hope will en-